



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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19 NOVEMBER 1965

~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Indonesia

Our embassy in Djakarta believes that Sukarno's meeting with military commanders tomorrow will give some clearer indication of who is on top at the moment, although it is unlikely to bring the situation to a climax.

At this point, Sukarno's position does not seem much improved, despite a constant round of talks with civilian political leaders.

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The West Java military commander announced yesterday that the Indonesian Communist Party has been "dissolved," rather than merely "suspended" as in the rest of the country. This sounds at first like another army victory. This particular commander, however, has been lukewarm in pursuing the Communists, and the announcement may be an effort to smother anti-Communist activity with the claim that the party no longer exists.

2. Communist China

The Chinese Communist leaders have absorbed a series of setbacks lately, both abroad and domestically, and there are signs that tensions may be rising to the surface.

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While concern doubtless is high over foreign policy reverses, the top leaders are even more anxious about the way things are going at home. One of the chief sources of concern is the apparent loss of revolutionary zeal among the nation's youth and in lower party levels. This is the subject of today's Annex.

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3. South Vietnam

US and South Vietnamese forces are pressing the fight against some four regiments of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong in western Pleiku Province.

The Communists have reportedly ordered in reinforcements, and the southward truck convoys spotted recently moving through the Laos infiltration corridors may be in support of the effort.

On the political side, student leaders in Saigon today issued a scathing attack on the Ky government. These leaders have not managed to attract much support, but there have been mutterings against Ky from the Catholic camp recently. There is an anti-US tinge to some of this.

A survey taken in the provinces points to a rise in popular anxiety over the accelerating tempo of the war. The feeling is still vague and localized, with the majority accepting the war in a passive or fatalistic way.

4. Soviet Union

The Soviet ships which supported the launchings of the Venus probes on 12 and 16 November

This suggests that another space shot, possibly a third Venus probe, is in the offing.

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The two probes already en route

They should arrive in the vicinity of Venus early next March.

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The follow-up probe--called Venus 3 since a Venus 1 was launched on an abortive mission in 1961--seems to be essentially a backup. Although the Soviets have announced that Venus 3 carries somewhat different equipment from Venus 2, the primary mission of both probes most likely is to study the Venusian atmosphere.

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5. Cyprus

President Makarios is sending 133 Greek Cypriot technicians to Egypt today to begin training on Soviet surface-to-air missile equipment, according to the Greek defense minister. The minister says his government is powerless to prevent the move, and suggests that the US try.

This development will further excite the Turks when they get wind of it, although its importance at this time is psychological. Ambassador Belcher in Nicosia reports that a number of Makarios' future missilemen have made it clear that they are going on this mission reluctantly, and it will probably take a year or more to train them.

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6. Congo

Army chief Mobutu says President Kasavubu and Premier Kimba are pressing him to arrest Tshombé.

The charge against Tshombé would be using "mercenary soldiers" without government approval. This accusation arises out of a recent incident in which Belgian officers formerly assigned to the Congo Army moved to form a bodyguard for Tshombé.

Mobutu says he is in a quandary. He has resisted the idea of arresting Tshombé, but at the same time feels he could never serve under Tshombé and evidently does not want to seem to be supporting him.

Tshombé's recent success in defeating Kasavubu and Kimba in parliament indicates he has considerable support throughout the country as well as in his native Katanga, and his arrest would produce a new crisis.

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7. Rhodesia

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Prime Minister Wilson is sending Malcolm MacDonald, an experienced trouble-shooter, to Zambia via Kenya.

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According to our embassy in Lusaka, British moves to re-establish confidence there are essential. The Zambian leaders feel that Britain's measures against Rhodesia will be ineffective, and suspect that London will let Zambia down as well.

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The Rhodesian authorities today restored the guards around Governor Gibbs' house, stating that he had been sent threatening letters.

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8. Bolivia

The curtain seems about to go up on another act in Bolivia's presidential play.

Co-President Barrientos says he is going to Switzerland this month for medical treatment of an old bullet wound. This looks like another of Barrientos' maneuvers to leave his fellow co-President, Ovando, holding the bag while Barrientos plumes himself to run for president next year.

It remains to be seen whether Ovando and the Bolivian politicians will follow Barrientos' script.

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9. Dominican Republic

Ambassador Bunker's two meetings with Garcia Godoy yesterday did not indicate any new crises coming up. The provisional president is still moving very cautiously on his scheme to replace leftists like Attorney General Morel Cerda. Garcia Godoy claims that his relations with the military chiefs have improved.

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10. Uruguay

Labor troubles continue in Montevideo, and the Communists are reported to have decided to try a general strike if the government does not give in to some of the unions' demands. So far, the government is holding to a tough line.

11. France

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ANNEX

Chinese Communist Revolution Slowing Down

[redacted] Fitting the pieces together into a coherent picture is an exacting, if not entirely exact, science. However, over the past months a picture of a worried top command in Peking has emerged with unusual clarity.

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Mao and his circle sense that their revolution is losing momentum and that, when they are gone, there may be no one left to keep the Chinese nose to the revolutionary grindstone.

Specifically, the leadership fears that China's youth and intelligentsia, despite years of insistent party propaganda, do not entirely share their leaders' ideals.

Party authorities suspect that the dry rot is now infecting the lower levels of the party apparatus. The urgent need, as they see it, is to reinstill in these vital cogs a sense of revolutionary zeal and purpose. Characteristically, the leadership is trying to achieve this by ordering all involved to spend even longer hours poring over the works of Chairman Mao and expounding on them in the ubiquitous party cell meetings. Local party organizations are being shaken up, presumably to weed out those who no longer are sufficiently receptive to pressures of this type. Stronger measures--like fines, forced labor, or imprisonment--have been used before and surely will be used again.

Reports from refugees

[redacted] make plain that the authorities are once again requiring large numbers of recent high school graduates to work in rural areas. Part of this is due to the fact that opportunities for higher education, strictly limited, are reserved for those the regime considers "politically reliable." It is an item of faith that hard physical labor on the farms will "steel" the others and make them more malleable instruments of the party.

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Practicing scientists have also come under the lash. As a group the scientists had until recently been largely exempt from such party-sponsored pressures. Peking has now decided that the gentle treatment has failed. Charges have been leveled that Chinese scientists are still too admiring of "bourgeois" Western science. This is wrong, the key party journal thunders, and Chinese scientists must turn instead to Mao's work for guidance.

A US-trained rocket specialist, Chien Hsueh-sen, was forced recently to criticize himself in the pages of the same journal for belittling the political side of science. Peking evidently felt it necessary to smash the image of Chien as a man who got to the top despite being more expert than red. The tactic is not apt to lift the quality of Chinese science.

Peking has been over most of this ground before. In the present case, however, there seems to be a special sense of urgency. This probably reflects a recognition that returns from such efforts are diminishing. It may also mean that China's aging leaders are beginning to realize that time is running out for them.

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